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**FILED**  
**CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT**

**JAN 14 2025**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
BY: **MG** DEPUTY

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11 Attorneys for [PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor  
12 YUHAAVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL NATION,  
a federally recognized Indian tribe, also federally  
recognized as SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
EASTERN DIVISION – RIVERSIDE**

17 | BLUETRITON BRANDS, INC.,

Case No.: 2:24-cv-09720-JGB-DTB

Plaintiff,

V.

20 UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE.

**COMPLAINT-IN-INTERVENTION  
OF PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR  
YUHAAVIATAM OF SAN  
MANUEL NATION FOR  
DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

21 RANDY MOORE, in his official  
22 capacity as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service,

Hearing Date: February 3, 2025  
Hearing Time: 9:00 AM  
Courtroom: 1  
Judicial Officer Jesus G. Bernal

23 CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, in his  
24 official capacity as Deputy Chief for the  
National Forest System of the U.S. Forest  
Service,

Action Filed: August 6, 2024

JENNIFER EBERLEIN, in her official capacity as Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service.

1 DANELLE HARRISON, in her official  
2 capacity as Forest Supervisor of the San  
3 Bernardino National Forest of the United  
4 States Forest Service,

5 MICHAEL NOBLES, in his official  
6 capacity as Front Country District Ranger  
7 of the U.S. Forest Service,

8 Defendants.

9 YUHAAVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL  
10 NATION, a federally recognized Indian  
11 tribe, also federally recognized as SAN  
12 MANUEL BAND OF MISSION  
13 INDIANS,

14 [PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor.

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 1. This action arises under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA),  
17 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq., the National Forest Management Act (NFMA),  
18 16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq., the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 701  
19 et seq., as well as the United States' trust obligation to Indian tribes arising under  
20 federal statutory and common law, including Executive Orders 13007 and 13175  
21 regarding government-to-government consultation.

22 2. The District Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to  
23 28 U.S.C. §§ 1362, 1331, 2201-2, and 5 U.S.C. § 701, et seq.

24 3. Venue is proper in the Central District of California, Eastern Division,  
25 because the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (Nation) is located there, and  
26 Defendants engaged and continue to engage in conduct there giving rise to the  
27 Nation's claims. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c), (b).

28 **PARTIES**

29 4. The Nation is a federally recognized Indian tribe of Serrano people  
30 possessing authority over its citizens and lands and located on the San Manuel  
31 Reservation near Highland, California. The Nation owns the Arrowhead Springs

1 property (Arrowhead Springs), which is located at the base of Strawberry Canyon  
2 and across which Strawberry Creek flows.

3       5. Since time immemorial, the Serrano people have occupied and relied  
4 on the resources of Strawberry Canyon and Arrowhead Springs for subsistence,  
5 cultural, ceremonial, religious, and commercial purposes. Arrowhead Springs and  
6 Strawberry Canyon are located in the Nation's ancestral territory, and both constitute  
7 culturally significant sacred sites, as defined in Executive Order 13007. These lands  
8 feature prominently in the Nation's oral history and were once the site of an ancient  
9 village known as Apuiva't in which the Nation's ancestors lived. The Nation  
10 reacquired Arrowhead Springs in 2016 to protect its important cultural and natural  
11 resources. The resort facilities located at Arrowhead Springs have operated since  
12 1864 and predate both the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and commercial  
13 water bottling in Strawberry Canyon. The Nation possesses broad state and federal  
14 water rights in East Twin Creek and its tributary Strawberry Creek.

15       6. Defendant the United States Forest Service (USFS) is a federal agency  
16 within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). SBNF is within the  
17 USFS lands located in Southern California.

18       7. Defendants Randy Moore, USFS Chief; Christopher French, Deputy  
19 Chief for the National Forest System of the USFS; Jennifer Eberlein, Regional  
20 Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region of the USFS; Danelle Harrison, Forest  
21 Supervisor of the SBNF of the USFS; and Michael Nobles, Front Country District  
22 Ranger of the USFS, are employed by the USFS and are all sued in their official  
23 capacity. Defendants are the responsible officials within the USFS for managing the  
24 USFS and SBNF and issued the Notice of Denial challenged in this case. All listed  
25 Defendants are hereinafter referred to individually as "Defendant" or collectively as  
26 "Defendants."

27       8. Plaintiff BlueTriton Brand, Inc. (BlueTriton) is a commercial water  
28 bottling company that is contractually obligated to deliver water through its water

1 collection tunnels, boreholes, water transmission pipelines, and associated  
2 improvements located primarily within the SBNF to the Nation. BlueTriton is  
3 incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of  
4 business in Stamford, Connecticut.

5 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

6 9. Since time immemorial, the Serrano people have stewarded the land  
7 and natural resources encompassing Arrowhead Springs and the entire SBNF,  
8 including Strawberry Canyon. As noted, both Arrowhead Springs and Strawberry  
9 Canyon are located in the Nation's ancestral territory, and both constitute culturally  
10 significant sacred sites, as defined in Executive Order 13007. Arrowhead Springs  
11 and its surrounding environment, including the famed rock landmark and natural hot  
12 mineral springs, hold sacred cultural significance to the Nation and its people.  
13 Arrowhead Springs is located at the base of Strawberry Canyon.

14 10. The Arrowhead Springs Hotel was constructed in 1939 following a fire  
15 that destroyed the original hotel and resort structures, first built in 1864. The hotel  
16 enjoys a storied history, previously serving as a health resort, Hollywood filming  
17 location, and U.S. Navy medical treatment facility during World War II. The  
18 Arrowhead Landmark (California Historical Landmark No. 977) has marked the  
19 location of the hot mineral springs for centuries and constitutes a sacred site to the  
20 Serrano people. Given its historical and cultural significance, Arrowhead Springs is  
21 eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

22 11. Separate from the present dispute, the Nation is currently seeking  
23 approval from Defendants to finalize the San Manuel Ancestral Land Exchange,  
24 which will return to the Nation a parcel of SBNF land that abuts both Arrowhead  
25 Springs and the Nation's Reservation. The land exchange will allow the Nation to  
26 connect its current Reservation lands to Arrowhead Springs. Both the Arrowhead  
27 Springs parcel and the parcel proposed for exchange contain a portion of  
28

1 BlueTriton's water delivery infrastructure that Defendants have ordered BlueTriton  
2 to remove.

3       12. For over a century, BlueTriton and its predecessors have operated water  
4 collection infrastructure consisting of tunnels, boreholes, and pipelines located in  
5 Strawberry Canyon under a series of special use permits issued by Defendants  
6 beginning in 1930. The Nation has received a portion of this water, upon which the  
7 Nation relies to operate Arrowhead Springs, through the infrastructure operated by  
8 BlueTriton and its predecessors (Subject Water).

9       13. In 1931, BlueTriton's predecessor-in-interest entered a contract to  
10 deliver the Subject Water to Arrowhead Springs. In 2016, the Nation proudly  
11 reacquired Arrowhead Springs, returning this sacred landscape to the Serrano  
12 people. As successor-in-interest to the 1931 contract, the Nation has continuously  
13 and reliably received the Subject Water from BlueTriton.

14       14. It is undisputed that the Nation possesses water rights that authorize its  
15 receipt and use of the Subject Water. Indeed, the Nation enjoys riparian,  
16 groundwater, and pre-1914 appropriative rights that would permit diversions from  
17 Strawberry Canyon under California and federal water law.

18       15. Currently, the Nation uses the Subject Water to maintain fire safety  
19 reserves on which the Nation and surrounding communities depend, to provide  
20 domestic water use in the hotel, event spaces, administrative offices, fire station and  
21 other facilities, to maintain cultural and recreational facilities, to irrigate a portion of  
22 the property, to support native plant propagation, and to sustain a greenbelt that  
23 connects surrounding landscapes and that provides a fire defensive zone. If these  
24 water deliveries to Arrowhead Springs are cut off before the Nation can secure an  
25 alternate water supply, the Nation will be unable to operate its facilities or maintain  
26 its property. A municipal water connection is currently infeasible, because the  
27 nearest hookup is located far from Arrowhead Springs, and connection would

1 require significant water delivery infrastructure involving significant costs,  
2 permitting entitlements, and time.

3       16. In addition to the Nation's use, the Subject Water is available to and has  
4 historically been regularly accessed by the San Bernardino County Fire Protection  
5 District, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the SBNF.

6       17. Because Arrowhead Springs has relied on the Subject Water for over a  
7 century, and given the existing infrastructure or lack thereof, alternative water  
8 supplies do not currently exist that would provide adequate water to maintain the  
9 government, recreational, cultural, and wildfire facilities at Arrowhead Springs.  
10 Furthermore, the Nation cannot rely on the few existing developed water wells as  
11 the wells do not and cannot produce enough water of sufficient quality to meet the  
12 property's needs; indeed, much of the well water cannot be used for domestic or  
13 irrigation due to temperature and high levels of contaminants.

14       18. Defendants sent a letter to BlueTriton dated July 26, 2024 (Notice of  
15 Denial) that purports to terminate its authorization to operate BlueTriton's  
16 infrastructure within the SBNF. ECF No. 1-1, Letter from USFS, July 26, 2024,  
17 "Notice of Denial of Application for Use and Occupancy of National Forest Lands  
18 and Termination of Special Use Permit FCD728503." The Notice of Denial gave  
19 BlueTriton one week to comply, and cease delivering water through its  
20 infrastructure, including cutting off the Subject Water to the Nation at Arrowhead  
21 Springs. Since then, Defendants have modified their Notice of Denial twice to  
22 temporarily authorize continued delivery of the Subject Water to Arrowhead  
23 Springs. ECF No. 15-21, Letter from USFS to BlueTriton Brands, Inc., First  
24 Modification to Notice of Denial (Aug. 2, 2024), and Letter from USFS to  
25 BlueTriton Brands, Inc., Second Modification to Notice of Denial (Aug. 26, 2024).  
26 The temporary modification expires on January 15, 2025, at which point BlueTriton  
27 will lack authority to deliver the Subject Water to the Nation. *Id.*

1       19. The Notice of Denial effectively prohibits delivery of the Subject Water  
2 to the Nation and terminates its water supply for Arrowhead Springs. BlueTriton  
3 received the Notice of Denial on Saturday, July 27, 2024. The Notice of Denial  
4 ordered BlueTriton to stop conveying water to Arrowhead Springs within  
5 seven days. Defendants never provided the Nation any notice of its action adversely  
6 impacting the Nation, before or after its issuance, let alone, engage in the formal  
7 consultation the law requires. Indeed, the Nation only received notice of the USFS'  
8 Notice of Denial days later when BlueTriton informed the Nation as a courtesy.

9       20. In the Notice of Denial, Defendants terminate BlueTriton's existing  
10 authorization, deny BlueTriton's pending application for a new special use permit,  
11 and order BlueTriton to immediately cease all activities on SBNF lands, including  
12 operation of the infrastructure that delivers water to Arrowhead Springs. The Notice  
13 of Denial nowhere references the Nation or addresses how prohibiting BlueTriton's  
14 delivery of the Subject Water to Arrowhead Springs will impact the Nation. The  
15 Notice of Denial also mischaracterizes the Nation's operation of Arrowhead Springs  
16 by alleging the "hotel and conference facility on the property is not operating." ECF  
17 No. 1-1. Contrary to the mischaracterizations, the following is true and was  
18 communicated to the USFS prior to its issuance of the Notice of Denial:

- 19       a. the water received from BlueTriton is the primary water source  
20                  for Arrowhead Springs and is essential for all property  
21                  operations, including firefighting;
- 22       b. there is no alternative sources of water as there is no nearby  
23                  municipal water connection;
- 24       c. Arrowhead Springs is used by the Nation daily, including by the  
25                  government departments housed in the administration building,  
26                  the firefighters at the fire station, and the employees who operate  
27                  the events that are held throughout the property;

- 1                   d. the Nation has a native plant propagation area on the property  
2                   and irrigates a defensible green space for wildfire protection; and  
3                   e. water delivered to Arrowhead Springs by BlueTriton is used by  
4                   local, state, USFS, and the Nation's firefighters for fighting fires  
5                   at the property and within the surrounding community, and  
6                   indeed first responders from local, state, and federal agencies use  
7                   Arrowhead Springs for fire-fighting training.

8                  21. Accordingly, prior to issuing the Notice of Denial, Defendants knew  
9                  the Nation relies on these water deliveries to operate Arrowhead Springs, and that it  
10                 houses a tribal conference and events center, administration buildings, the fire  
11                 station, and recreational and cultural facilities which are used daily by the Nation  
12                 and its citizens, officials, and employees. In discussions between the Nation's  
13                 representatives and Defendants preceding the adverse action, the Nation specifically  
14                 informed Defendants of the Nation's various needs and uses of the Subject Water,  
15                 and further explained the lack of an alternative water source for Arrowhead Springs.  
16                 ECF No. 1-1.

17                 22. Defendants relied upon a contested ruling by the California State Water  
18                 Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as a basis to terminate delivery of the Subject  
19                 Water to the Nation, even though the SWRCB determination allowed continuing  
20                 deliveries of water by BlueTriton to the Nation and Arrowhead Springs. ECF  
21                 No. 15-6 at 90-91, SWRCB Order WR 2023-0042 (Sept. 19, 2023). Furthermore,  
22                 SWRCB's order specifically acknowledges the Nation's water rights, and for that  
23                 reason, authorizes BlueTriton to continue delivering the Subject Water to the Nation  
24                 pursuant to the Nation's senior riparian rights in East Twin Creek. Moreover, the  
25                 order was stayed by the Superior Court. As noted, even absent the undecided  
26                 appellate status, the SWRCB was careful to recognize water rights the Nation holds  
27                 and appropriately carved out a water supply for the Nation's purposes.

1       23. The Notice of Denial also ordered BlueTriton to prepare and submit a  
2 plan to remove its infrastructure from SBNF lands within twelve weeks. *See* ECF  
3 No. 34, BlueTriton Brands, Decommissioning Plan, Arrowhead Springs (Oct. 2024).  
4 BlueTriton submitted its decommissioning plan to Defendants on October 18, 2024.  
5 The plan involves the removal of miles of water delivery infrastructure that span a  
6 rugged and remote canyon inaccessible by vehicle. Decommissioning will not only  
7 prove costly but also involve dangerous activities that could impact Arrowhead  
8 Springs and the Nation's cultural resources and water resources. For example,  
9 removal activities will involve helicopter flights, hazardous materials, demolitions,  
10 and electrical work. Defendants have not adequately analyzed the impact of these  
11 activities, which are significant, and the Nation has not had sufficient time to  
12 separately evaluate potential adverse effects to its water rights and property if the  
13 infrastructure removal proceeds. Despite the Nation's requests, Defendants have  
14 refused to engage in formal consultation with the Nation regarding the impacts of  
15 BlueTriton's decommissioning plan. When the Nation asked to see a copy of the  
16 plan, Defendants responded that the Nation can file a Freedom of Information Act  
17 request or secure the plan from BlueTriton.

18       24. The Nation has exhausted all administrative remedies available to  
19 maintain Arrowhead Springs' water supply. In meetings between Defendants and  
20 the Nation, Defendants made no attempt to provide a water solution for the Nation if  
21 the Notice of Denial is implemented on January 15, 2025, as currently scheduled.  
22 Instead, Defendants seek to permanently cut off Arrowhead Springs' historic water  
23 supply and have ignored the risks such action poses to life and property, including  
24 the consequences of leaving Arrowhead Springs and the surrounding community  
25 without water, and thus unable to combat wildfires. Rather than working with the  
26 Nation to find a solution, Defendants made and propounded inaccurate assumptions  
27 about the Nation's water needs for Arrowhead Springs. In addition, despite the  
28 adverse impact of Defendants' actions, Defendants refuse to further modify the

1 Notice of Denial to allow continued delivery of the Subject Water to Arrowhead  
2 Springs pursuant to the Nation's own water rights after January 15, 2025.  
3 Accordingly, BlueTriton will be prohibited from delivering the Subject Water to the  
4 Nation beginning January 15, 2025, and Defendants will have effectively deprived  
5 the Nation of its water supply.

6       25. Before Defendants issued the Notice of Denial, and during the months  
7 that followed, Defendants have failed to engage in meaningful consultation with the  
8 Nation regarding how the Notice of Denial may adversely impact the Nation and  
9 Arrowhead Springs. As noted, Defendants have likewise failed to consult with the  
10 Nation regarding the impact of BlueTriton's decommissioning plan.

11       26. If BlueTriton's water deliveries to Arrowhead Springs cease, the Nation  
12 will be forced to immediately curtail its water usage. This could have numerous  
13 adverse effects, including reducing the Nation's (and other regional fire agencies')  
14 ability to fight wildfires in the surrounding area, including the SBNF, and rendering  
15 Arrowhead Springs inoperable.

16       27. Defendants have identified no exigent circumstance to justify their  
17 mandate for BlueTriton to halt water deliveries to the Nation on January 15, 2025,  
18 or to commence decommissioning of its infrastructure.

19       28. Defendants' actions taken in the Notice of Denial constitute final  
20 agency actions and are therefore subject to judicial review under the APA,  
21 notwithstanding Defendants' assertion to the contrary in the Notice of Denial.  
22 Defendants' violation of their trust responsibility to and duty to meaningfully  
23 consult with the Nation regarding the Notice of Denial is also subject to judicial  
24 review.

25       ///

26       ///

27       ///

28       ///

## Count I

## **(Violation of the National Historic Preservation Act and Administrative Procedure Act)**

29. The Nation re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in this complaint.

30. Section 106 of the NHPA requires agencies to identify and consider how agency action may impact historic properties and to meaningfully consult with Indian tribes regarding cultural resources within the area of potential effects.

31. Defendants provided no notice to the Nation of their intent to terminate the Nation's water supply at Arrowhead Springs. Defendants have not sufficiently evaluated potential adverse impacts on Arrowhead Springs' historic and cultural resources, nor have they engaged the Nation in meaningful government-to-government consultation that meets the requirements established by section 106 of the NHPA.

32. Defendants' actions violate the NHPA and its implementing regulations.

33. Accordingly, Defendants' issuance of the Notice of Denial is "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, [and] not in accordance with law," "contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity," "in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right," and "without observance of procedure required by law." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

## Count II

## **(Violation of the National Forest Management Act and Administrative Procedure Act)**

34. The Nation re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in this complaint.

35. The NFMA requires Defendants' actions to conform to the standards established in their forest management plans. Defendants' forest management plan

for the SBNF mandates working cooperatively with the Nation on a government-to-government basis when making decisions, including consideration of the Nation's traditional and contemporary uses of SBNF land and resources.

4       36. Defendants did not consult the Nation prior to issuing the Notice of  
5 Denial. Defendants did not attempt to enter any agreement to facilitate cooperation.  
6 Defendants made no attempts to identify, let alone protect, the Nation's resources  
7 before issuing the Notice of Denial.

8       37. Defendants' actions violate the forest management plan for the SBNF  
9 and, therefore, violate the NFMA and its implementing regulations.

10       38. Accordingly, Defendants' issuance of the Notice of Denial is "arbitrary,  
11 capricious, an abuse of discretion, [and] not in accordance with law," "contrary to  
12 constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity," "in excess of statutory  
13 jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right," and "without  
14 observance of procedure required by law." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

### Count III

#### **(Violation of the Administrative Procedure Act)**

17       39. The Nation re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every  
18 allegation set forth in this complaint.

19       40. The APA requires the Court to “hold unlawful and set aside agency  
20 action, findings and conclusions found to be . . . arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of  
21 discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law,” “contrary to constitutional  
22 right, power, privilege, or immunity,” “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority,  
23 or limitations, or short of statutory right,” or “without observance of procedure  
24 required by law.” 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

25       41. Defendants have failed to engage in reasoned decision making and  
26 made a clear error of judgment in terminating a water supply to which the Nation  
27 possesses indisputable water rights and upon which Arrowhead Springs has relied  
28 for over a century. Defendants have also failed to comply with numerous executive

1 orders and their own regulations and policies that mandate federal agencies to  
2 provide notice to, consult with, and consider and mitigate impacts on Indian tribes  
3 regarding agency actions and programs, including Joint Secretarial Order 3403  
4 (2023), Presidential Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation  
5 (2022), Executive Order 13647 (2013), Executive Order 13175 (2000), Executive  
6 Order 13007 (1996), USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002, and Forest Service  
7 Manual section 1563.1.

8       42. Defendants have exceeded their statutory authority and thus have acted  
9 contrary to law by assuming the regulatory authority, evidenced by the Notice of  
10 Denial, to evaluate whether the volume of water the Nation uses at Arrowhead  
11 Springs is excessive and whether the uses to which the Nation puts its water are  
12 consistent with California law. That authority rests solely with California  
13 authorities.

14       43. Defendants have exceeded their statutory authority and thus have acted  
15 contrary to law by preventing the delivery of and threatening to terminate a water  
16 supply upon which the Nation and Arrowhead Springs have relied for over a  
17 century, and with regard to which the Nation and Arrowhead Springs possess  
18 longstanding and well recognized state and federal water rights. The Nation and  
19 Arrowhead Springs have broad water rights to water in Strawberry Canyon that  
20 authorize the current and future use of such water by the Nation. All relevant  
21 federal legislation relating to the creation and management of national forests  
22 recognizes that water rights are governed by state law, and any federal reservation of  
23 water rights for the SBNF can only reach water that was appropriated at the time of  
24 establishment and necessary to effect the purpose of the reservation. Arrowhead  
25 Springs' water rights upon which the Nation relies were established before the  
26 creation and establishment of the SBNF, and those rights have been affirmed by  
27 numerous state forums and adjudications, including by the SWRCB itself.  
28

44. Defendants also have exceeded their statutory duty by failing to abide by the federal trust responsibility and duty to consult in meaningful government-to-government consultation as stated above and throughout this complaint.

45. The Notice of Denial does not provide Defendants' reasoning for ordering the immediate decommissioning of BlueTriton's infrastructure, which consists of a complex series of tunnels, boreholes, and pipelines that span the entirety of Strawberry Canyon and have been in place since 1931. The Notice does not indicate that Defendants consulted the Nation whatsoever regarding their decision to cut off the water supply for Arrowhead Springs (because they did not), nor does it justify Defendants' drastic change in authorizing the infrastructure that delivers the Subject Water to the Nation.

46. Defendants therefore violated the APA. The Court must hold unlawful and set aside the Notice of Denial because Defendants' action was "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, [and] otherwise not in accordance with law," "contrary to constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity," "in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority, or limitations, or short of statutory right," and "without observance of procedure required by law." 5 U.S.C. § 706(2).

## Count IV

### (Breach of Trust)

47. The Nation re-alleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in this complaint.

48. That the United States owes a fiduciary duty to all federally recognized Indian tribes is beyond dispute. As a consequence of this federal trust responsibility, statutes, regulations, and policies affecting tribes and enacted for their benefit must be construed in a manner favorable to tribes, and agencies should act in the general interests of tribes.

49. Despite ample evidence that the Nation possesses the right to use the Subject Water at Arrowhead Springs and the fact that the SWRCB's cease-and-desist

1 order explicitly carves out the Nation, Defendants have ordered that BlueTriton  
2 cease delivering the Subject Water to the Nation beginning on January 15, 2025.  
3 Defendants' actions attempt to adjudicate and quantify water rights and prioritize the  
4 SBNF's beneficial uses over those of other water users, including the Nation.  
5 Defendants' actions violate numerous federal laws.

6        50. In addition, Defendants have breached their federal trust responsibility  
7 owed to the Nation by violating federal law in issuing the Notice of Denial without  
8 engaging in the necessary analysis—including meaningful consultation with the  
9 Nation—to determine how such action would impact the Nation, and by actively  
10 frustrating the Nation’s attempts to preserve its water supply and protect its property  
11 interests at Arrowhead Springs.

## **NOTICE OF RELATED CASE**

13 This action is related to *Save Our Forest Association, Inc. v. U.S. Forest*  
14 *Service*, Case No. 5:24-cv-01336-CBM-SK, United States District Court, Central  
15 District of California, Eastern Division-Riverside.

## **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

17 WHEREFORE, the Nation respectfully requests that this Court enter  
18 judgment providing the following relief:

- 19       1. Declare that Defendants violated the NHPA and the APA as alleged;  
20       2. Declare that Defendants violated the NFMA and the APA as alleged;  
21       3. Declare that Defendants violated the APA as alleged;  
22       4. Declare that Defendants violated their trust responsibility to the Nation  
23 as alleged;  
24       5. Issue injunctive relief to preserve the status quo for water delivery as of  
25 July 25, 2024, with regard to delivery of the Subject Water to Arrowhead Springs for  
26 use by the Nation by rescinding, setting aside, or holding unlawful Defendants'  
27 issuance of the Notice of Denial, unless Defendants modify it to authorize continued  
28 delivery of the Subject Water to the Nation for use at Arrowhead Springs;

6. Enjoin Defendants from taking further action that would impact the Nation's receipt of the Subject Water unless or until a future special use permit or congressional authorization is granted that authorizes continued delivery of the Subject Water to the Nation for use at Arrowhead Springs;

7. Award the Nation attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
§ 2412; and

8. Grant such other and further relief as it may deem appropriate, or as justice requires.

Respectfully submitted,

SOMACH SIMMONS & DUNN

Dated: January 3, 2025

By s/ Stuart L. Somach

Stuart L. Somach, Attorneys for  
[PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor  
YUHAAVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL  
NATION, a federally recognized Indian tribe,  
also federally recognized as SAN MANUEL  
BAND OF MISSION INDIANS